

9503.ccc.6.

A
BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE
KINGS of ENGLAND,
PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE
Royal House of STUART,
Of Blessed MEMORY.

*And while they live, we see their glorious Actions
Oft wrested to the Worst, and all their Life,
Is but a Stage of endless Toil and Strife,
Of Tumults, Uproars, Mutinies and Factions,
They rise with Fear, and lie with Danger down,
High are the Cares that wait upon a Crown.*

E. of STIRLING

*Tho' nothing can some Monarchs more offend
Than when their Ancestors we much commend.*

E. of ORRERY.

Weldon (L. Anthony)

By Sir A. WELDING, Bart.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. Williams, Fleet-street, 1766.

BRITISH MUSEUM

OF THE

KINGS OF ENGLAND

Particulars of the

Royal House of A. R. T.

OF THE



INTRODUCTION.

THE unparalleled Transactions, of these our late Times have raised in me such a Confusion of Thoughts, that I resolved to look back, as a Man that is stunned with a Stone looks not after the Stone, but after the Hand that flung it.

AND surely I find (by the Help of my Spectacles) King *James* was the Fountain of all our late Afflictions and Miseries.

IT hath been a Custom among our flattering Priests (for I know none else used it) upon Mention of deceased Princes, to use the Expression *Of blessed Memory*; and so I believe have used it since *William* the Bastard of *Normandy* over-ran this Kingdom: Which begat another Itch in me, to search the Lives of all our Kings since him, and see if any of them had deserved that reverend Remembrance. And so first for



King WILLIAM the Conqueror,

Of Blessed Memory.

KNOW no better Testimony of him
than out of his own Mouth, lying upon
his Death-bed: His Words take as fol-
lows;

‘THE *English* I hated; the Nobles I dishonoured,
‘ the Commons I cruelly vexed, and many I un-
‘ justly disinherited: In the County of *York*, and
‘ sundry other Places, an innumerable Sort with
‘ Hunger and Sword I slew; and thus that beau-
‘ tiful Land and noble Nation I made desolate
‘ with the Deaths of many Thousands.’

WILLIAM RUFUS, of blessed Memory.

THIS King did not only oppress and fleece this
Nation, but rather with importunate Exactions
did as it were flay off their Skins. His chiefest
Consorts were effeminated Persons, *Russians*, and
the like; and himself delighted in continual Adul-
teries, and Company of Concubines, even before
the Sun. None thrived about him but Treasurers,
Collectors, and Promoters: He sold all Church-
Preferments for Money, and took Fines of the
Priests for Fornication.

HUNTING in that most remarkable New Forest,
Walter Tyrrel shot him to the Heart with an Arrow
out

out of a Cross-bow, whether of Purpose or not, is no great Matter.

HENRY I. of blessed Memory.

Is branded with Covetousness and intolerable Taxations; and Cruelty upon his elder Brother, whom he kept in perpetual Prison, and put out both his Eyes; and from his most excessive Lechery, leaving behind him fourteen Bastards.

KING STEPHEN, of blessed Memory.

INFAMOUS for Perjury; a Hater of this Nation, whom he durst never trust, but oppressed this Land with Strangers, notwithstanding that he had received the Crown upon Courtesy; dies, and leaves behind him two Bastards.

HENRY II. of blessed Memory.

NEVER such a horrid Extracter of Monies from the Subjects, as this King; and is infamous for Perjury, Jealousy, and Lechery; curses all his Children upon his Death-bed, and so dies leaving three Bastards.

RICHARD I. of blessed Memory.

RAKED more Money by unparalleled Taxes upon this Nation, than any King before him: His Voyage to the *Holy-Land* pared them to the Bones by many unjust Ways, but his unlucky Return quite ruined it: He dies by a poisoned Arrow, leaves two Bastards.

King

King JOHN, of *blessed Memory*.

OF this King we cannot reckon so many Impieties as he had : Unnatural to his own Blood, to the Wife of his Bosom ; bloody to Nobility and Clergy ; Perjury, often swearing, but never kept his Word ; betrays the Crown and Kingdom to the Pope, and rather than want his Will to ruin both Church, Nobles, and the whole Nation, sends Ambassadors to a Moor, a mighty King in *Africa*, to render unto him this Kingdom of *England*, to hold it from him as his sovereign Lord, to renounce *Christ*, and receive *Mahomet*. In the Heat of his Wars with the Nobility, Gentry, and Commons of this Land, repairs to the Abbey of *Swines-head*, where he is poisoned and leaves behind him three Bastards.

HENRY III. of *blessed Memory*.

A CHIP of the old Block ; for no Oath could bind him ; jealous of the Nobility, brings in Strangers, despiseth all Counsel in Parliament, wastes all the Treasure of the Kingdom in civil Wars, sells his Plate and Jewels, and pawns his Crown.

EDWARD I. of *blessed Memory*.

GOVERNED his Will by his Power, and shed more Blood in this Kingdom, than any of his Fore-runners ; counted his Judges as Dogs, and dies as full of Malice as he lived full of Mischief.

EDWARD II. of *blessed Memory*.

A MAN given to all Sorts of unworthy Vanities,

ties, and sinful Delights: The Scourge and Disgrace of this Nation in *Scotland*, against a Handful of Men, with the greatest Strength of *England*. After so many Perjuries about his Favourite *Gaveston*, and Slaughter of the Nobility, he is deposed and murdered.

EDWARD III. of blessed Memory.

To his Everlasting Stain of Honour, surrenders by his Charter, his Title of Sovereignty to the Kingdom of *Scotland*; restores the Deeds and Instruments of their former Homages and Fealties, tho' after the *Scots* paid dear for it, to supply his Want. Whatsoever he yielded to in Parliament, was for the most Part presently revoked: And in that Parliament which was called the Good, they desire the King, having abundantly supplied his Wants, to remove from Court four Persons of special Prejudice to his Honour and the Kingdom's, with one Dame *Alice Piers*, the King's Concubine, an impudent troublesome Woman: but no sooner ended this Parliament, having gotten their Monies, but those four forbidden return to Court, and their wonted Insolencies. The Speaker, who had presented the Kingdom's Grievances, at the Suit of *Alice Piers*, is committed to perpetual Imprisonment.

RICHARD II. of blessed Memory.

It is said of this King, he spared neither the Dignity, nor the Life of any that crossed his Pleasure; spared neither lewd Example, nor vile Action, to follow cruel Counsel. A Man plunged in Pleasure and Sloth; in his private Councils would alter whatsoever the Parliament had settled; neglects his Debts; prodigal to Strangers; destroys the Nobility;

Nobility; and for his Hypocrisy, Cruelty, Perjury, and Tyranny, is deposed and murdered in *Penfryst-Castle*.

HENRY IV. of blessed Memory.

So true is that Distych translated out of *Suetonius* :

Who first exil'd, and after crown'd,

His Reign with Blood will much abound.

For after he had murdered his Predecessor, nothing took up this King's Reign, but Ruin and Blood upon the Nobility and Gentry of this Kingdom, with such unsufferable Taxes as never were before, nor since.

HENRY V. of blessed Memory.

THIS King reigned about nine Years and a half, all which Time our Stories mention nothing but his Wars, raising of Monies, and spending the Blood of this poor Nation.

HENRY VI.

AND

EDWARD IV. of blessed Memory.

WERE two Men, born as it were for Ruin, Blood, and Misery to this Kingdom; whose Lives and Actions no Man can read with Patience : That so much Treasure and so many Lives should be spent and lost, to maintain the Ambition, Luxury, Pride, and Tyranny of but two Men, in so many set Battles fought in the Bowels of this Kingdom. *Henry* was stabbed with a Dagger by the Duke of *Gloucester* in the Tower. *Edward* died at *Westminster*.

minster, and left behind him two Bastards, and a miserable Whore *Jane Shore*.

RICHARD III. *of blessed Memory.*

A Monster of Lust and Cruelty ; whose Murders, too many to be here repeated, are at large set down in our Chronicles, with his Attempts of Rape and Incest. So perfect he was in Villainy and Hypocrisy, that he would always use most fair Language, and shew greatest Signs of Love and Courtesy to that Man in the Morning, whose Throat he had taken Order for to be cut that Night, and was the first I read of in our Stories, that ever used that Oath, *God damn me*. He was slain at *Bosworth-field* ; his Body stark naked and mangled, besmeared with Blood and Dust, was brought upon a Horse to *Leicester*, where for a Spectacle of Hate and Scorn, he lay two Days unburied.

HENRY VII. *of blessed Memory.*

THIS King, my Lord of *Verulam* hath washed his Face with good Language, that without a near Approach, he is hardly discovered : But surely I find no Right he had to the Crown, more than the Consent of the People, which was not then in Fashion, whom he never durst trust neither, his Heart continually burning to destroy all Sparks of the right Blood, and their Abettors. How was the Lord Chamberlain's Life juggled away for his Thoughts, and his Estate, which was so considerable, with many more of our Nobility ? And for that Story of *Richard Duke of York*, Son to *Edward IV.* under the Name of *Perkin Warbeck*, I do as verily believe he was the said Duke of *York*, as I believe *Henry VIII.* was the Son of this *Henry VII.* the Circumstances being so pregnant

B

from

from so many Persons of Honour ; but nothing more confirms me in it, than this King's indefatigable Pains, and most infinite Cost to get him and ruin him, and with him the harmless Earl of *Warwick*, the one beheaded, the other hanged at *Tyburn*; and surely though this King did far excel all his Predecessors in Craft, yet was he as guilty of Cruelty and Blood as the worst of them ; nor can all the Water in the Sea wash from him those two monstrous Sins of Avarice and Ingratitude.

HENRY VIII. of *blessed Memory*.

To say much of him, were to make you surfeit ; Sir *Walter Rawleigh's* Testimony of him is sufficient. If all the Pictures and Patterns of a merciless Prince were lost in the World, they might all be painted again to the Life out of the Story of this King : His vast Expence of Treasure, and profuse Bloodshed, made this Kingdom look with a ghastly Face ; and to express him fully, this remains of him to Everlasting, *That he never spared Man in his Anger nor Woman in his Lust*. I do none of them Wrong, for thus I find them branded to my Hand by public Records : And surely this puts me in Mind of a Story I have heard in *Spain* : A Friar preached before Don *Pedro* the King, surnamed *The Cruel*, took his Text which invited him to extol regal Dignity to its highest Pitch, often saying, *Few Kings went to Hell* ; but in the Close of his Sermon, said, *You may, peradventure, wonder that I so often tell you, That few Kings go to Hell : Marry ! the Reason is, there are but few Kings, for if there were more, they would all go to the Devil*.

Of all these our Kings, I would know which was Of *blessed Memory*, who ruled by Blood, Oppression,

pression, and Injustice upon this Nation, in Contempt of God and Man.

Now, if any Man ask why I have curtailed the Lives and Persons of these thus ? I answer, that the common People of this Kingdom, who cannot attend to read Chronicles, may see their *Jus Divinum*. Next, if any Man ask why I make such Mention of their Bastards ? I answer, only to let the World see what Foundation these six and twenty Bastards have laid for Honourable, Noble and Right Worshipful Families of a long Continuance, which have been maintained by the Blood and Treasure of this oppressed Nation. If why I mention not *Edward V.* and *Edward VI.* ? I say they were Children, and so died, affording no Matter for this present. If why I omit Queen *Mary*, and Queen *Elizabeth* ? I answer, I have nothing to do with Women, and I wish I never had. But I must not make the Door bigger than the House ; and so I address myself to King *James*.

King JAMES, of blessed Memory.

To write the Life and Reign of this King, requires a better Bookman, and a better Penman : That which I have to observe, is only to render him as great a Tyrant as any of the rest ; for tho' his Fearfulness kept him from Wars and Blood, yet as much as was in his Power, he laid as many Springs to enslave this Nation as ever any ; his Will was the sole Rule of his Government ; nor had the People any Thing to act but submissive Obedience. His first Work was to found the Prelates and Nobility, whose Ambition and Corruption he found suitable and serviceable to his Intentions ; and it was their Infusion, so agreeable to his Disposition, that made him carry himself so

majestically to the Parliament of *England* (a Power he might justly fear to offend) but their Counsels, though they then served his and their Ends, came upon them like a Storm; the one voted down Root and Branch, the other voted useless and dangerous.

THE King brings with him a general Peace with all Christendom, not considering the particular Interest of this Nation, whether it were honourable or safe, as the Affairs of *England* then stood, his Predecessor having taken upon her to be Head and Protectress of the Protestant Party wheresoever; But he had his Ends to himself. First he had heard how many and how often Attempts had been used to take away the Life of Queen *Elizabeth*, whom God notwithstanding preserved and protected, by the Diligence of her Servants; but he would rather trust to his Craft, than to God's Providence.

THAT having taken away all Thoughts of Wars, his Design was to luxuriate the People, that so he might more insensibly lay that Foundation of Tyranny he intended.

AND now comes tumbling in monstrous Excess and Riot, which consumed many good Families, and more good Hospitality, formerly the Glory both of our Nobility and Gentry; with an incredible Increase of Taverns and Bawdy-houses, for which too we are to this Day beholden to the *Scots*.

AND with this King, and this Peace, came the greatest Plague that ever this Kingdom felt before his Time; as if God had told us from Heaven we had
had

had deserved it, by betraying ourselves; and which was but a light forerunning Punishment, in respect of what in Time should follow; and yet peradventure that Plague was but a Shadow of himself, the greater.

THE Kingdom could not afford more Pomp and Glory, than was shewn when King *James* came first through *London*; and it was so much the more considerable as to him, that from a nasty barren Country (rather a Dunghill than a Kingdom) he came to be at that Instant as great a Prince as any in Christendom: And indeed it was the Wonder of those Statesmen, who had had Experience of the Gallantry of this Nation, that a *Scot* should enjoy this Crown without Resistance. If the Temper of these our Days had then, as now, taken Head, we had saved much Blood, much Money, and in all likelihood been long since settled to such a happy State as we are just entering upon.

LONG had he waited for the Death of *Queen Elizabeth*; but longer had they waited, that waited upon him: For had not their Hopes as well as his expected their Shares of Spoils of this Kingdom, we may without doing any Wrong to that Nation, conclude him in the Fate of his many Predecessors, whom they murdered. His Stock was odious to the more ancient Nobility of that Nation; and the Cloak of the Kirk would have served without Scruple for such a fatal Covering, as the Grand Signior uses to send Men doomed to Death.

His original Extract I find was this:

BANCHOO.

BANCHOO, a Nobleman of *Scotland*, had a fair Lady to his Daughter, whom *Macbeth* the King desires to have the Use of ; *Banchoo* refuses, and *Macbeth* murders him, and takes the Lady by Force.

FLEANCE, the Son of *Banchoo*, fearing the Tyrant's Cruelty, flies into *Wales*, to *Griffin ap Llewellyn*, the Prince of *Wales* : *Llewellyn* entertains him with all hospitable Civility. *Fleance*, to requite his Courtesy, gets *Llewellyn's* Daughter with Child : *Llewellyn* murders *Fleance*, and *Llewellyn's* Daughter is afterwards delivered of a Son named *Walter* ; this Son proves a gallant Man, and falling out with a noble Person in *Wales*, that called him Bastard, *Walter* slew him, and for his Safeguard fled into *Scotland*, where in Continuance of Time he gained so much Reputation and Favour, that he became Steward of the whole Revenue of that Kingdom, of which Office, he and his Posterity retained the Sirname, and from whence all the Kings and Nobles in that Nation, of that Name, had their Original ; here is a goodly Foundation.

For his Person, a Man might sufficiently and truly make up a Volume, only to tell of his Laziness, and his Uncleanneffes ; But I cannot do it without fouling too much Paper.

He was a great Pretender to Learning and Religion, and for the speculative Part, had as much as any of our Kings upon Record ; but for the practical, and best Part of it (if we judge of the Tree by the Fruit) we may without Breach of Charity conclude him not guilty : He was the
greatest

greatest Blasphemer in the World; swear faster than speak, and curse the People by the Clock: And it appears by the whole Course of his Life, that he was a most malicious Hater of this Nation.

THE King was naturally fearful, even as low as he could be; and what he would do and durst not own, that he would do by his Favourites, whom, for the Fitness of his Designs, he would raise from low Degree, to oblige them the more, and to desert them with more Ease, and shift them often, till he had them fitted to his Purpose.

DUNBAR was too solid, *Hayes* too light, *Northampton* too crafty, *Montgomery* too silly (here is two *English*, two *Scots*, all deserted.) And now he hath found a young *Scot*, that had been one of his young Pages in *Scotland*, and turned off with Fifty Pounds in Money and Cloaths, to seek his Fortune; having spent his Time and his Means in *France*, comes over hither, and for his Fashion and Language, is entertained by his Countryman, then Lord *Hayes* (another *Scot* of the like Extract) for a Page, where the King takes Notice of him, calls for him, and at the first Dash makes him one of the Bed-chamber, and suddenly his Favourite, and Knight Sir *Robert*, then Viscount *Rocheſter*, and after Earl of *Somerſet*. This Man the King had wound up to his juſt Pitch, of whom we may juſtly ſay, *Trim tram, like Maſter like Man*. When this Man had long wallowed in his Maſter's Bounty, and the Treasures of this Kingdom, he fell the fouleſt that ever Man did, upon the Rocks of Diſhonour, Adultery and Murder: Of Diſhonour, to a noble Peer of this Land, and in him to the whole Nobility: Adultery, not only to bewhore her,

her, but to get her divorced, and marry her. And Murder, upon the Body of that unfortunate Gentleman Sir Thomas Overbury, only for dissuading him.

AND here it is much to our Purpose to insert, how this Favourite's Carriage had highly offended Prince Henry, who understanding the loose Kind of Life this Man lived, especially relating to her, distastes him, disrespects him, and forbears his Company, and flatly falls out with him. Somerset complains to the King: Shortly the Prince falls sick and dies.

THAT he was poisoned, hath been a common Fame ever since: But to snuff the Candle, and make it burn clear, take the Testimony of these famous Physicians that dissected his Body, and have left it upon Record under their Hands.

The Dissection of the Body of Prince Henry:

FIRST, *We found his Liver paler than ordinary, in certain Places somewhat wan; his Gall without any Choler in it, and distended with Wind.*

SECONDLY, *His Spleen was in divers Places more than ordinary black.*

THIRDLY, *His Stomach was in no Part affected.*

FOURTHLY, *His Midriff was in divers Places black.*

FIFTHLY,

FLETHLY, His Lungs were very black, and in divers Places spotted, and full of a thin watery Blood.

LASTLY, The Veins in the hinder Part of the Head were fuller than ordinary; but the Ventricles and Hollowness of the Brain, were full of clear Water.

I N Witness whereof, with our own Hands, we have subscribed this present Relation, November 7; 1612.

MAYERN.
ATKINS.
HAMMOND.
PALMER.
GIFFORD.
BUTTER.

THIS Prince was an active Man, and full of high Thoughts; a Lover of this Nation, and looked upon by them with much Affection and Expectation. What Fears and Jealousies Somerset might maliciously infuse into the King's too fearful and timorous Soul, we cannot tell: But that Language from Somerset to the Lieutenant of the Tower, when he told him he must provide himself to go the next Morning to Westminster to his Trial, said, He would not: That the King had assured him he should not come to any Trial, neither durst the King bring him to any Trial. This Language, I say, stinks abominably. And when he did come to his Trial, fearing (being enraged) that he might fly out into some strange Discovery, there were two

Men placed on each Side of him with Cloaks on their Arms, with peremptory Command, That if *Somerset* did any Way fly out against the King, they should instantly hoodwink him with their Cloaks, take him violently from the Bar, and carry him away; and this could be no Man's Act but the King's. He would often boast of his King-craft; but if his Fears, and *Somerset's* Malice took this Prince's Life away, it was a sweet Piece of King-craft indeed, but the Fruit of it hath been bitter.

I CANNOT enough admire that Language he used, when he gave in Charge to the Judges the Examination of Sir *Thomas Overbury's* Murder.

My Lords,

I charge you, as you will answer it at that great and terrible Day of Judgment, that you examine it strictly, without Favour, Affection, or Partiality: And if you shall spare any guilty of this Crime, God's Curse light upon you and your Posterity; and if I shall spare any that is found guilty, God's Curse light on me and my Posterity for ever.

THIS Expression has a most honest Outside: But if the King had a Design of Fear, rather to be so rid of *Somerset*, than an inward Desire of Justice, it was monstrous foul; which we shall better judge of by the Sequel.

SEVEN Persons were by the Judges condemned to die for this foul Murder; four of them of the least Account, and Accessaries, are executed; the three great Ones, and Principals, the King pardons; and to *Somerset* himself, to his dying Day was most profusely

profusely liberal, and suffered to live with that Firebrand of Hell his Wife, under the King's Nose, all the Days of their Lives.

HERE'S fine Juggling! These must be saved, for Fear of telling *Scotch* Tales of the King. Would the Spirits of those noble Souls of these our Days, put up such a Piece of Injustice in the Master, and such an Affront and Contempt of this Nation, both from the Master and the Man (two *Scots*) without Vengeance? I believe not.

AND this Favourite of his, when his Estate was seized upon for this foul Murder, was found to have two Hundred Thousand Pounds in Money, Plate, and Jewels, in his House; and nineteen Thousand Pounds a Year in Lands coming in; a fine Advance from a *Scot's* Page, fifty Pounds, and a Suit of Cloaths! and can any Man tell for what? I never heard that all *Scotland* was worth so much; but enough of him.

THIS King had no Wars; but spent more Money prodigally, profusely and riotously, than any of his Predecessors.

WHAT Swarms of *Scots* came with him, and after him, into this Kingdom? Who perpetually sucked him of most vast Sums of Money, which stand yet upon Record; which put him upon all dishonourable Ways of raising Monies, to the most cruel Oppression of this Nation, to serve their Riot and Luxury; the Truth of which was then, and is undeniable: Though they lived a while at such a Height, yet they died like themselves, contemptible, miserable Beggars; and at this Day scarce one of them can shew the Fruits of thole vast Donatives,

either in themselves or their Posterity, that are worth looking upon; and so let them all perish, whomsoever, *Scots* and *English*, whose Foundation is such. Though I see no Reason but an Estate may be now questioned, which is known to have been raised upon the Oppression of this Nation, nor that any Title of Honour, so bought, should descend to Posterity.

A Lord is to be a Lord by Merit of Employment in some noble Office, for the public Good; not by projecting Tricks, and cozening Devices to fill a Tyrant's Coffers, to the enslaving of a gallant and free Nation. But, &c. to turn to King James.

In those Days, it is true, the Bishops, Nobility, and the Lawyers, had a great Influence upon the People for their Abilities, and supposed Honesties; yet amongst these such are found, and others are made such; that whatsoever the King would have they are fit, and willing Instruments to bring it about, and make it pass for current Divinity and Law. Witness,

THE burning a whole Cart-load of Parliament Precedents, that spake the Subjects Liberty, that were burnt at the King's first coming.

WITNESS the Nullity,

WITNESS the Life of Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, that was taken away in Point of State, whose least Part was of more Worth than the whole Race of the best of the *Scots* Nation.

WITNESS,

WITNESS, the inhancing of Customs.

WITNESS, Privy Seals, Monopolies, and Loans, Benevolences, Sales of Lands, Woods, Fines, New-Buildings.

WITNESS, the lamentable Loss of the *Palatine*.

WITNESS the Treaty of the *Spanish Match*.

IN which two last, this Nation received more Dishonour, than in any Action any former Age can parallel, and all under the Colour of an honourable Treaty. His Daughter was undone, and his Son bob'd of a Wife, after the Hazard of his Person, and vast Expence of infinite Treasure to this Day undischarged.

I could never understand what Piece of Kingcraft it was, to let the Prince his only Son, with *Buckingham* his Favourite, make that Voyage into *Spain*, unless it were to be rid of them both: And had he not to do with a noble Enemy, surely they had never returned.

He would sometimes call a Parliament, for Money, not for Business: But if the Kingdom presented any Grievances, he would quarrel by his Prerogative, and dissolve it.

ONE Letter of his to the Parliament, I cannot read but with Amazement: Which being but brief, take here from his own Hand.

A COPY of His Majesty's LETTER to the
lower House of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker,

WE have heard by divers Reports, to our great Grief, that the far Distance of our Person at this Time from our High Court of Parliament, caused by our Want of Health, hath emboldened some fiery and popular Spirits in our House of Commons, to debate and argue publickly in Matters far beyond your Reach and Capacity; and so tending to our high Dishonour, and trenching upon our Prerogative royal: You shall therefore acquaint the House with our Pleasure, that none therein shall henceforth presume to meddle with any Thing concerning our Government, or Mysteries of State: Namely, not to speak of our dearest Son's Match with the Daughter of Spain, nor to touch the Honour of that King, nor any our Friends or Confederates; and also not to meddle with any Man's Particulars, which have their due Motions in our ordinary Courts of Justice: And whereas we hear they have sent a Messenger to Sir Edwin Sands, to know the Reason of his late Restraint; you shall in our Name resolve them, that it was not for any Misdemeanor of his in Parliament: But to put them out of Doubt of any Question of that Nature, that may arise among them hereafter, you shall resolve them in our Name, that we think ourselves very free, and able to punish any Man's Misdemeanors in Parliament, as well during their sitting, as afterwards; which we mean not to spare hereafter, upon any Occasion of any Man's insolent Behaviour there, that shall be ministered unto us. And if they have already touched any of these Points which we have forbidden, in any Petition of theirs, which

which is to be sent to us : It is our Pleasure, that you shall tell them, that except they reform it before it come to our Hands, we will not dain the bearing or answering of it.

I LEAVE every Reader to comment upon it, according to his own Patience and Passion : But, that a *Scot*, from so beggarly a Condition, to be so peaceably received to so royal a Government, over so brave a Nation, should use such ungrateful, presumptuous, and proud Language to the Parliament of *England*, is to my Understanding, monstrous, horrible, and not good. But it was his Humour all his Reign ; with Impatience overruling, with Jealousies threatening, and at Pleasure to dissolve all Parliaments, thereby to lay that Foundation of tyrannical and arbitrary Government, which he intended to bring upon us.

HIS Favourite *Somerset* being condemned, and quietly laid aside, he was ready provided of another, *George Villiers* by Name, a handsome young Man, lately returned out of *France*, from an Allowance of Threescore Pounds a Year ; who comes to Court, is admitted to a Cup-bearer's Place, presently knighted and made Gentleman of the Bed-chamber, and the same Day a Thousand Pounds a Year out of the Court of Wards given him, and in a Breath made Master of the Horse, then Knight of the Garter, then Baron of *Whaddon*, Viscount *Villiers*, Earl of *Somerset*, and a Privy-Counsellor, Marquis of *Buckingham*, Lord Admiral of *England*, Chief Justice in *Eyre* of all the Parks and Forests on the South Side of *Trent*, Master of the King's-Bench Office, Head Steward of *Westminster*, and Constable of *Windsor* Castle, and lastly Duke ; and then he could go no higher in Title ; but by his
Master's

Master's Pleasure and Courtesy, all the Affairs of the Kingdom are steered by his Compass, as is at large made known in many Men's Writings published. Yet when he knew his Master (notwithstanding his flattering Expressions of Affection, and extravagant Honours and Riches) to be weary of him, he found a Plaister and a Powder, that made him Amends for all his Favours; and here the King-craft met with his Match. How far King Charles might be privy to this Business, I determine not; but the private Familiarity between them continued so long after, and protecting him from being questioned for this very Particular in Parliament, is no small Presumption.

But what the King denies (Justice) God sent by the Hand of *John Felton*, who stabbed this Duke at *Portsmouth*, with a Tenpenny Knife, that he instantly gave up the Ghost, with these Words, *God's Wounds, I am slain!*

To write all the Actions this Duke did by these two Kings Favours, in Prejudice of this oppressed Nation, would make a choleric Man mad, and a phlegmatic stupid; but let him go, the King is the Thing I intend, who made use of him, the flattering Prelates, the poor spirited Nobility, and corrupt Lawyers, to frame such a Government, as all the Wealth of this Kingdom should be at the King's disposing.

WHICH Course, with such Instructions, he left to his Son; and how his Son managed them, though they have been so clearly published by Supreme Authority, fairly written by so white a Hand, yet I intend not to pass him over intirely; for this I can say

say, He was a Man so wilful, obstinate and uxorious; that he quite forsook his own Interest as a King, and the Honour and Interest of this Nation, through Malice and her Counsel; and did so far incline to the Interest of *France*, against *Spain* (and no Thanks for his Labour) that by his Means alone *Rochelle* and *Dunkirk* were both lost: but that, and his Father's Instructions, lost him, with the Loss of more Blood and Treasure to this Nation, than all our Wars had spent since *William the Norman*.

It hath been to me the greatest Wonder of the World, how this King could be so blind, as not to prevent that Storm that came upon him, till it was too late. Were all his Counsellors false? O unhappy King! Or would he be ruled by none but himself and his Wife? O more unhappy Man! (Surely in this was the Hand of God most visible.) Mischief was in his Heart against this Nation, but it came on himself and all his, as the World hath seen.

THERE was about the Time of his Death, a Book published, which was presented to the World as he the Author; which was so gross an Imposture, that I have much marvelled (the Fraud being so plain and easily detected) that no Course hath been taken to find him out, and punished, that made it; for that it was not his, is as plainly to be discerned, as the Sun at Noon. But that false Perfume lasted but a While, and the Scent was only pleasing to them that could not smell.

So that I may say, That in those Days were seen two the most remarkable, and most eminent Passages of human Affairs, that this Nation hath afforded since the Creation.

THE Entrance of King *James* into this Kingdom, with as much Pomp and Glory as the World could afford :

AND the Exit of his Son, with as much Shame and Misery as could befall a King.

AND although God Almighty be the Judge of all Men, yet God's Judgments that are so remarkable, are for our Instructions, and God is to be glorified by us for these Judgments of his upon this King's Family.

I cannot in the best Stories I have read, find who was clearly King *James's* Father.

MARY, Queen of *Scotland* (a lusty young Widow) marries the Lord *Darnly*, Son to the Duke of *Lenox*, in the Year 1565, or thereabouts ; and at the same time had for a Reserve in great Favour with her an *Italian* Fiddler, and *Bothwel*, a *Scotch* Lord. After Marriage, the Queen proves with Child. The King her Husband, that was Lord *Darnly* (enraged by some Informations) comes into the Room where the Queen his Wife was at Supper, and very big ; drags the *Italian* Fiddler into another Room, and murders him. The Queen was shortly delivered of a Son, which was our King *James*. The Solemnity of the Christening ended, she and *Bothwel* murdered the King her Husband. then the Queen marries *Bothwel* (and all this in a Moment of Time) but they are both fain to fly : The Queen came into *England*, and was here beheaded ; *Bothwel* fled into *Denmark*, and there lay in Prison all the Days of his Life.

AND

AND now (Reader) observe the Fortune of this prodigious Family.

HIS supposed Father was strangled in his Bed by the Consent of his Mother, and flung out into a Garden.

HIS Mother is beheaded.

HIS eldest Son, Prince *Henry*, by the Jealousy, and Consent of his Father, in the Flower of his Youth, and Strength of his Age, is poisoned.

HIS Daughter, married to the *Palgrave*, where shortly her Husband in Ambition to become a King) is slain, and she with her many Children are driven out of their Estates, and fly for Shelter into *Holland*, where she lived upon the Courtesy of this State.

HER eldest Son, having lived long upon a particular Charity of this Nation, was at last restored to a Feather of his Goose.

TWO other of her Sons, after Six Years following Arms and Plunder for King *Charles*, turned Pyrates at Sea, and so continued.

KING *James* himself (after two and twenty Years Reign, by the Act of his Favourite *Buckingham*, and the Consent of his Son *Charles*, that succeeded him) is poisoned.

KING *Charles*, after eight Years Wars with the Parliament, is taken, arraigned, and condemned, and is beheaded at his own Doors ; and his Wife

fled home to her Friends, and his Children scattered abroad in the World, to live upon the Charity of others.

ARE all these Circumstances to be slighted, or unconsidered? And shall we take the Priest's Word, *King James was of blessed Memory*? I challenge the proudest of them; let them publish one clear Act of Honesty from him all the Time of his Reign, or any honest Man that ever he loved, and I'll yield. His Hypocrisy, Perjury, Cowardice, Blasphemy, Malice, are known to all; and base Ingratitude, which comprehends more than all the rest; whereof one Example of him is well worth our remembering, to Sir *Henry Wotton*, which briefly was thus:

SIR *Henry* (a Man for Person and Parts highly esteemed and honoured of all that knew him) being in *Florence*, when Queen *Elizabeth's* Death drew nigh, which King *James* gaped for) the Duke of *Florence* had intercepted some Letters, which discovered a Design to take away the Life of King *James*: The Duke abhorring the Fact, resolves to endeavour his Preservation, calls for his Secretary to advise by what Means a Caution might be best given to the King; and it was resolved to be done by Sir *Henry Wotton*, who (being well instructed) is presently dispatched into *Scotland* with Letters to the King, and most rare Antidotes against all manner of Poisons, whereby that Mischief was prevented; and Sir *Henry Wotton* returns into *Italy*, where shortly after came the News of the Death of Queen *Elizabeth*, and *James* King of *Scots* proclaimed King of *England*; and away comes Sir *Henry Wotton* to joy the King.

THIS had been a fit Subject for to have shewn his noble Mind upon for a Favourite; but what doth the King? Takes him into two and twenty Years Travel, like a Pack-horse, to make him an Agent in Foreign Parts, and leaves him in his old Age in *Eaton-College*, unable to pay his Debts, as may appear by his lamentable Complaint upon his Death-bed; his Words are these, in his last Will and Testament.

I humbly beseech my Lord's Grace of Canterbury, and the Lord Bishop of London, to intercede with our most gracious Sovereign (in the Bowels of Jesus Christ) that out of compassionate Memory of my long Services, some Order may be taken for my Arrears, for Satisfaction of my Debts.

THIS Precedent alone is so transcendently foul, as all his other Actions and Passions are Virtues to it. Fellows of no Merit, at home must wallow in his Bounty and their own Luxury, to do his foul Pleasure, and to execute his Tyrannical Actions, whilst such a noble Soul as this, must suffer Want, and die in it.

AND now lay these Things together, and see whether this King, any more than any of his Predecessors, did deserve this honourable Memorandum: To consummate his Character, his Cowardice was as remarkable as his other Qualifications; for the Sight of a drawn Sword, or the Noise of a Gun, would have put his Posteriors into such an Agitation, that the Saviour did sufficiently inform the By-standers what Condition they were in; but though these may seem ludicrous, yet being

ing plain Matter of Fact, I thought not fit to pass it by in Silence ; but leaving so disagreeable a Subject, I shall pass on to his Son.

CHARLES I. *of blessed Memory.*

WAS as like his Father as one Egg is like another, only with this Odds, his Father had not Courage answerable to his Intentions ; but this Man durst attempt any thing that his perverse and inflexible Temper put him upon.

DURING the Minority of this Prince he was looked on, by all that knew him, to be of a most obstinate Disposition : The Queen his Mother greatly lamented his unhappy Turn of Mind, and was heard to say of him in Public, *That, she feared he would live to be the Ruin of himself, and occasion the Loss of his three Kingdoms, by his Obstinacy.* Soon after he came to the Throne he married a French Papist, by a Dispensation from the Pope, and according to the Ceremonies of the Church of Rome. She was not only a Papist, but in a remarkable manner attached to all the Fopperies, and most absurd Practices of that Church. By the Articles of this Marriage, many Liberties were granted to the Papists. A Chapel was permitted to be built at *Somerset-House*, where there was likewise established a Convent of *Capuchine* Friars, who together with a great Number of Priests and Jesuits, walked the Streets in their Habits, in such a manner as had never been allowed since the Reformation. The King wrote to the Pope with the Title of *Most Holy Father*. I can but admire his Zeal for the Protestant Church of *England*, in the following Letter,

To

To Pope GREGORY XV.

Most Holy Father,

*I received the Dispatch from your Holiness with great Content, and with that Respect which the Piety and Care wherewith your Holiness writes doth require. It was an unspeakable Pleasure to me to read the generous Exploits of the Kings my Predecessors, to whose Memory Posterity hath not given those Praises and Elogies of Honour that were due to them. I do believe that your Holiness hath set their Example before my Eyes, to the End that I might imitate them in all my Actions; for in truth they have often exposed their Estates and Lives for the Exaltation of the Holy Chair. And the Courage with which they have assaulted the Enemies of the Cross of Jesus Christ, hath not been less than the Care and Thought which I have, to the End that the Peace and Intelligence, which hath hitherto been wanting in Christendom, might be bound with a Bond of true Concord: For like as the common Enemy of Peace watcheth always to put Hatred and Dissention between Christian Princes, so I believe that the Glory of God requires that we should endeavour to unite them, and I do not esteem it a greater Honour to be descended from so great Princes, than to imitate them in the Zeal of their Piety: In which it helps me very much to have known the Mind and Will of our thrice honoured Lord and Father, and the holy Intentions of his Catholic Majesty, to give a happy Concurrence to so laudable a Design: For it grieves him extremely to see the great Evil that grows from
the*

the Division of Christian Princes, which the Wisdom of your Holiness foresaw, when it judged the Marriage, which you pleased to design between the Infanta of Spain and myself, to be necessary to procure so great a Good: For 'tis very certain, that I shall never be so extremely affectionate to any thing in the World, as to endeavour Alliance with a Prince that hath the same Apprehensions of the true Religion with myself. Therefore I intreat your Holiness to believe, that I have been always far from encouraging Novelties, or to be a Partisan of any Faction against the Catholick, Apostolick, Roman Religion: But on the contrary, I have sought all Occasions to take away the Suspicion that might rest upon me; and that I will employ myself for the Time to come to have but one Religion, and one Faith, seeing that we all believe in one Jesus Christ: Having resolved in my self to spare nothing that I may have in the World, and to suffer all manner of Discommodities, even to the hazarding of my Estate and Life, for a Thing so pleasing unto God. It rests only, that I thank your Holiness for the Permission which you have been pleased to afford me, and that I may pray God to give you a blessed Health here, and his Glory, after so much Travel which your Holiness takes within his Church.

Madrid, June
20, 1622.

CHARLES STUART.

ALL the honest and wise Part of the Nation was greatly alarmed at this Match; fearing it would again bring us back to the Slavery and Bondage of Rome.

KING

KING *Charles* the First was a staunch Bigot, and consequently the Darling of the Clergy; and having no great Reach of his own, was governed by his Priests, who have been always unfortunate when they meddle in Politics. His whole Reign was one continued Series of Follies, or Infringements of the Rights of his Subjects, he lived in constant and open Violation of the fundamental Laws of the Realm; and conducted every thing to the Dishonour and Reproach of the *English* Nation.

It has been proved already, that he was shrewdly suspected to have had a Hand in his Father's Death, together with his Favourite *Buckingham*, whom he protected to the last, against the Justice of the Kingdom.

As he was a *Scot* born, so he hated this Nation to the last Degree, and was a cruel Oppressor thereof, by illegal Methods; raising what Money he thought fit without Consent of Parliament, by what he called his Royal Prerogative. Witness, Ship-Money, Loans, Excise, inhancing of Customs, borrowing Money by Force of particular Persons, and if they refused, they were sent for Soldiers into foreign Parts; nor did some of the largest Cities and Corporations in *England* escape him. The Aldermen of *Bristol* were laid up for presenting a Petition, to excuse the City from the Payment of three thousand Pounds demanded of them by the King, nor were they discharged before the Money was paid.

BESIDES these Methods, he raised prodigious Sums by extravagant Fines in his illegal Courts of Star-Chamber, High Commission, &c. erected purely to enslave and ruin the Nation : In short, it is almost impossible to reckon up the many unjust and illegal Methods this King took, to ruin the poor spur-galled Subjects, and to advance himself to the highest Pinnacle of despotic and arbitrary Power. He was a most inveterate Enemy to Parliaments, as knowing them to be the grand Obstacle to his towering Ambition ; dissolving them at Pleasure if they answered not his wicked Designs ; and it was his beggarly Necessities that forced him to comply to the sitting of his last Parliament till they should dissolve themselves, the City refusing to lend a Sum of Money, that was requested, without it, having been often baffled by him before in the same Manner.

He agreed with the Marquis *D'Effiat*, the *French* Minister, for a Squadron of Men of War to join the *French* Fleet at *Dieppe*, which was sitting out against the Protestants at *Rochele* ; thereby to destroy at once all the remaining Strength of the Reformed in that Kingdom. The Command of this Squadron was given to Captain *Pennington*, whom he strictly enjoined that in case his Ships should refuse to join the *French* in this vile Expedition, he should use all forcible Means to compel them, even to the sinking them if they continued obstinate : That was to destroy the *English*, his own People, if they would not destroy the *French* Protestants.

THIS Conduct appears by far the more wicked and astonishing, as the King, a little before, had wrote two Letters, signed *Charles Rex*, to the Peers, Burghers, and Inhabitants of the City of *Rochelle*, engaging to assist them to the utmost. In the first Letter he says, *My Fleet shall perish rather than you shall not be relieved.*— in the second, *Be assured I will never abandon you, and that I will employ all the Force of my Kingdom for your Deliverance.*

WHEN the Parliament came afterwards to examine *Pennington's* Papers, they found a Letter from the King, signed *Charles Rex*, requiring him to dispose of those Ships as he should be directed by the *French King*, and to sink or fire such as should refuse to obey these Orders.

HE raised two Wars upon his Countrymen the *Scots*, because they would not suffer a Liturgy composed by *Laud*, and sent to *Rome* to be approved, to be imposed on them.

ABOUT this Time one *Manwarring* undertook to prove, out of Scripture, *That Kings might impose Taxes without Consent of Parliament, and that the People were bound in Conscience to obey their Will and Pleasure.* *Laud* sent another parasitical Priest (one *Sibthorp*) to preach an Assize Sermon at *Northampton*, wherein he asserted, *That the King is not bound to observe the Laws of the Realm, concerning the Subjects Rights and Liberties, and that his Royal Will in imposing Taxes, without Consent of Parliament, binds his Subjects on pain of Damnation, and those who refuse to pay the Loans, offend God, and become guilty of Disloyalty and Rebellion.* This wretched Sycophant, instead of being punished for this wicked and impious Doctrine, was rewarded

with a Bishoprick. All the Sermons now at Court were to the same Purpose. *Ludlow* tells us, This was the only Work of which the Clergy were judged capable; and therefore divers of them entered the List as Champions of the prerogative Assembly, that the Possessions and Estates of the Subject did of Right belong to the King; and that he might dispose of them at his Pleasure, hereby annulling, as much as in them lay, all the Laws of *England* that secure Property to the People.

BUT the King soon found that the Clergy might continue their Preaching to Eternity, without bringing any Money into the Exchequer, and therefore more violent Methods were taken. He began with imprisoning a great Number of the first Rank, and Quality, as well as many eminent Merchants and Traders in *London* and elsewhere, for refusing to pay those illegal Taxes.

Sir *Thomas Grantam*,
 Sir *John Strangeways*,
 Sir *William Armin*,
 Sir *William Willmore*,
 Sir *Robert Poyntz*,
 Sir *Oliver Luke*,
 Sir *Thomas Wentworth*,
 Sir *William Constable*,
 Sir *John Pickering*,
 Sir *William Chancey*,
 Sir *William Maffan*,
 Sir *Erasmus Draiton*,
 Sir *Nath. Barnardiston*,
 Sir *Beachan St. John*,
 Sir *Morris Berkley*,
 Sir *John Wray*,

Sir

Sir John Hotbam,
Sir Francis Barrington.

I COULD mention many other Knights, as well as Gentlemen, and a Multitude of the most eminent Merchants and Traders of the City of London, who were committed to the Fleet, the Gatehouse, the Marshalsea, and the New Prison, many of them to the entire Ruin of themselves and Families, for no other Reason but their refusing the Loan, as it was absurdly called; for with what Propriety could it be so termed, when Penalties were inflicted on those who would not pay it.

BISHOP Burnet, speaking of King Charles the First, says, *That by his illegal Administration he brought himself into great Distress, but had not the Dexterity to extricate himself out of it; that he loved big and rough Methods, but had neither Skill nor Genius to conduct them; he hated all that offered prudent and moderate Counsel; and, in his outward Deportment, never took any pains to please any one.*

I COULD mention a Hundred flagrant Instances more, but apprehend the Facts already recited are abundantly sufficient to prove that the Government of King Charles the First, for many Years, was illegal, arbitrary, and tyrannical, and that the Constitution was actually subverted and destroyed. However, to put this grand Dispute out of Question out of a Possibility of being ever more disputed, I will mention two or three more.

HE published a Book of Sports, requiring it to be read in all Churches, thereby to promote and encourage a horrid Prophanation of the Sabbath.

SOME

SOME Time after was published, a second Book, with many Enlargements, commanding Wrestling, and Cudgel-playing, &c. &c. &c. on *Sundays*. The good, the pious, the most religious King *Charles*, was so intent on this second Publication, that, to hasten it, he wrote the following Order or Warrant to *Laud*.

Charles Rex,

Canterbury, *See that our Declaration concerning Recreations on the Lord's Day, after Evening Service, be printed.*

THE *Irish* Massacre is another Instance of his Goodness, for which the Broad Seal of *Scotland* was produced; which Rebellion broke out in *October*, 1641, thus warranted when the King himself was in *Scotland*.

THE Papists first rose in the Province of *Munster*. A particular Account of their Barbarities would be too long, and too shocking. Cutting of Throats, Hanging and Drawing, were the mildest Treatment the Protestants met with. Many had their Eyes plucked out, then burnt, or buried alive. Mothers were hanged on the Gallows with their Children about their Necks. There was no Regard paid to Women great with Child, nor to Infants; one Protestant Lady was delivered while in the Hands of the Tormentors, who flung the newborn Infant to be eaten by a Hog. These infernal Monsters carried their Inhumanity so far, as to oblige Fathers and Mothers to murder their own Children, Husbands their Wives, and Wives their Husbands.

Husbands. There was such an Excess of Popish Cruelty, that my Nature shrinks and recoils, I can repeat no more of it. It was allowed on all Hands that more than one Hundred and fifty Thousand Persons were butchered and murdered in this inhuman Manner.

AND tho' the Odium of this Fact is industriously shifted off to others, yet in the Judgment of Reason, we cannot bring in the King, not Guilty ; who would never permit any to be called to an Account for it, though pressed thereto by Parliament ; and King *Charles* the Second's Letter on Behalf of the Marquis of *Antrim*, who was thereupon restored to his Honours and Estate, as an innocent Papist, tho' a Ringleader of that bloody Rebellion, as having done nothing but by the Order, and for the Interest of his Royal Father, as the King words it, is no small Proof by whose Authority it was committed.

THIS King of his infinite Goodness, during his Stay in *Scotland*, endeavoured to prevail on that People to invade *England*, but without Effect. On his Return to *England*, he was observed to grow daily more violent and tyrannical. He countenanced a Company of loose dissolute Fellows, Frequenters of Ale-houses, Taverns, and Gaming-houses, and kept a Table for them in his Palace at *Whitehall* ; and at the Head of this rude Mob, all armed, he entered the House of Commons, sat down in the Speaker's Chair, and demanded the Delivery of five of the most eminent Members,

Pym,
Hampden,

Hollis,

*Hollis,
Stroud, and
Hastlerig,*

Names that I cannot mention without a peculiar Reverence, their Memories will be always dear to every honest *Briton*, for that noble Stand, that brave Defence they made in Favour of the Religion, Laws and Liberties of their Country.

At last, to fill up the Measure of his Sins, as though all the Blood already spilt was too little to satisfy his Ambition and Revenge, having first insulted his Parliament, with his Band of dissolute Cavaliers, he set up his Standard at *Nottingham*, and endeavoured to bring in foreign Forces into the Kingdom, that so he might intirely enslave it, and be revenged, and at once rid of Parliaments. In short, he was a Man of an haughty, ambitious, insulting Disposition; an Enemy to Liberty, Property, and Justice; incorrigible and perverse in his Temper, cruel, bloody, and revengeful, and wasted more Blood and Treasure of his Subjects than any of his Predecessors since the Conquest.

I should not have been thus large and particular, but that this Man is cried up for a Saint and Martyr, by a Party, most of whom are ignorant what he was; the Prelacy, for the maintaining their usurped Authority, giving another Character than he deserved; at last he ended his Days with a Lye in his Mouth, as is before hinted, owning a Book for his own, of which Bishop *Gewden* and Bishop *Duppa* were the Authors, and he himself wrote not one Syllable, making way, by his Death, for his Son *Charles II.* to succeed him.

BUT

BUT before I proceed to his Life, I am under a Necessity of making a small Digression, to give the Reader some Idea of the State of Affairs at the Death of *Oliver Cromwell*, as appears by the following honest Speech, made by his Son, *Richard Cromwell*:

The Speech of His Highness the Lord Protector, made to both Houses of Parliament at their first Meeting, on Thursday the 27th of January, 1658.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I BELIEVE there are scarce any of you here, who expected some Months since to have seen this great Assembly at this Time, in this Place, in Peace; considering the great and unexpected Change it hath pleased the all-disposing Hand of God to make amongst us: I can assure you that, if Things had been according to our own Fears, and the Hopes of our Enemies, it had not been thus with us: And therefore it will become both you and me, in the first Place, to reverence and adore the great God, Possessor of Heaven and Earth, and in whose Hands our Breath is, and whose are all our Ways, because of his Judgments; so to acknowledge him in his Goodness to these Lands, in that he hath not added Sorrow to Sorrow, and made the Period of his late Highness his Life, and that of the Nation's Peace to have been in one Day.

PEACE was one of the Blessings of my Father's Government; a Mercy after so long a Civil War, and in the Midst of so great Division which that War bred, is not usually afforded by God unto a People in so great a Measure.

THE Cause of God, and these Nations, which he was engaged in, met in all the Parts of it, as you well know, with many Enemies, and great Opposition: The Archers, privily and openly, sorely grieved him, and shot at him, yet his Bow abound in Strength, and the Arms of his Hands were made strong by the Hands of the God of *Jacob*.

As to himself, he died full of Days, spent in great and sore Travail; yet his Eyes were not waxed dim, neither was his natural Strength abated, as it was said of *Moses*, he was serviceable to the last.

As to these Nations, he left them in great Honour abroad, and in full Peace at home: All *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland* dwelling safely, every Man under his Vine, and under his Fig-tree, from *Dan* even to *Beerseba*.

HE is gone to Rest, and we are entered into his Labours; and if the Lord hath still a Blessing for these Lands (as I trust he hath) as our Peace hath been lengthened out to this Day, so shall we go on to reap the Fruit, and gather the Harvest of what his late Highness hath sown, and laid the Foundation of.

FOR

For my own Part, being by the Providence of God, and the Disposition of the Law, my Father's Successor, and bearing that Place in the Government that I do, I thought it for the Public Good to call a Parliament of the three Nations, now united, and conjoined together into one Commonwealth, under one Government.

It is agreeable not only to my Trust, but to my Principles, to govern these Nations by the Advice of my two Houses of Parliament ; I find it asserted in the humble Petition and Advice (which is the Corner Stone of this Building, and that which I shall adhere to) *That Parliaments are the great Council of the Chief Magistrate, in whose Advice both he and these Nations may be most safe and happy.* I can assure you I have that Esteem of them : And as I have made it the first Act of my Government to call you together, so I shall further let you see the Value I have of you, by the Answers that I shall return to the Advice that shall be given me by you, for the Good of these Nations.

You are come up from your several Countries, as the Heads of your Tribes, and with Hearts (I persuade myself) to consult together their Good : I can say I meet you with the same Desires, having nothing in my Design but the Maintainance of the Peace, Laws, Liberties, both Civil and Christian, of these Nations, ; which I shall always make the Measure and Rule of my Government, and be ready to spend my Life for.

We have Summoned you up at this Time to let you know the State of our Affairs, and to have

your Advice in them : And I believe a Parliament was never summoned upon a more important Occasion.

It is true, as I have told you, we are, thro' the Goodness of God, at this Time in Peace ; but it is not thus with us because we have no Enemies : There are enough both within and without us, who would soon put an End to our Peace, were it in their Powers, or should at any Time come into their Powers.

It will be becoming your Wisdoms to consider of the securing of our Peace, against those, who, we all know, are, and ever will be our implacable Enemies ; what the Means of doing this are, I shall refer unto you.

THIS I can assure you, that the Armies of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, are true and faithful to the Peace and good Interest of these Nations, and it will be found so, and that they are a consisting Body, and useful for any good Ends ; and if they were not the best Army in the World, you would have heard of Inconveniencies, by reason of the great Arrear of Pay which is now due unto them, whereby some of them are reduced to great Necessities : But you shall have a particular Account of their Arrears, and I doubt not but Consideration will be had thereupon, in some speedy and effectual Way. And this being Matter of Money, I recommend it particularly to the House of Commons,

You have, you know, a War with *Spain*, carried on by the Advice of Parliament ; he is an old Enemy, and a potent one, and therefore it will be necessary,

cessary, both for the Honour and Safety of these Nations, that that War be vigorously prosecuted.

FURTHERMORE, the Constitution of Affairs in all our neighbouring Countries, and round about us (as well Friends as Enemies) are very considerable, and calls upon us to be upon our Guard both at Land and Sea, and to be in a Posture able to maintain and conserve our own State and Interest.

GREAT and powerful Fleets are preparing to be sent forth into these Seas, and considerable Armies of several Nations and Kings are now disputing for the Mastery of the *Sound* with the adjacent Islands and Countries; among which is the *Roman* Emperor, with other Popish States; I need not tell you of what Consequence these Things are to this State.

WE have already interposed in these Affairs, in such Manner as we found it necessary for the Interest of *England*; and Matters are yet in such a Situation in those Parts, that this State may, with the Assistance of God, provide that their Differences may not prejudice us.

THE other Things that are to be said I shall refer to my Lord Keeper *Fiennes*, and close up what I have to say with only adding two or three Particulars to what I have already said.

AND First, I recommend to your Care the People of God in these Nations, with their Concernments.
The

The more they are divided among themselves, the the greater Prudence should be used to cement them.

SECONDLY, The good and necessary Work of Reformation, both in Manners and in the Administration of Justice, that Prophaness may be discountenanced and suppressed, and that Righteousness and Justice may be executed in the Land.

THIRDLY, I recommed unto you the Protestant Cause abroad, which seems at this Time to be in some Danger, having great and powerful Enemies, and very few Friends; and I hope and believe that the old *English* Zeal to that Cause is still among us.

LASTLY, My Lords, and you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, That you will in all your Debates maintain and conserve Love and Unity among yourselves, that therein you may be the Pattern of the Nation, who have sent you up in Peace, and with their Prayers, that the Spirit of Wisdom and Peace may be among you: and this shall also be my Prayer for you; and to this let us all add our utmost Endeavours for the making this an happy Parliament.

CHARLES

CHARLES II.

Of blessed and religious Memory.

THIS Reign is full of Creations, Honours, Pomps, and Ceremonies ; Purveyors, Cooks, Pimps, and Heralds are the Men of Business ; I own It will be impossible for me to go thro' it without Pain, for in his Restoration flowed in that Deluge of Prophaneness, Debauchery, Pleasure and Persecution, Riot and Bigotry, Disgrace and Shame, that common Patience is not sufficient to support it. He is noted for his excessive Lechery, wasting prodigious Sums of Money in maintaining his Whores, of which he kept no small Number, and those too at the poor Allowance of 1000 l. a Week a-piece, by which Means he kept himself poor and indigent to the last Degree, and became despicable abroad, and the Ridicule of his own Court.

THIS is the King who made a public Sale of *Dunkirk*, and suffered the royal Navy at *Chatham* to be burnt by the *Dutch* : This is the King whom *Sheldon*, *Morley*, and *Cosin* were wont to stile their *most religious King* : This is the King of whom *Echard* tells us that *Sir Edward Hyde*, wrote in his Letters to *Dr. Berwick*, *The King has done all that is in his Power for the Church* ; he means while he was at *Fontainbleau*, *Paris*, *Cologne*, *Brussels*, &c. at the former of which he made Profession of the *Po-pish Religion*, then with what Front can People extoll this King's Zeal for the Protestant Church of *England*, when he was a Member of the Church of *Rome*, and what Opinion must one have of the Honour,

Honour, the Honesty of those, who got an Act passed, after he was restored, which made it Ruin for any one to say the King was a Papist; one of the first Blessings of that blessed Reign; at last, after he had spent a long Tract of Years in Lust and Riot, he died not without Suspicion of being poisoned by his Brother, leaving behind him six Bastard Dukes.

JAMES II. of blessed Memory.

HAD the Courage of his Grandfathers, and the Religion of his Mother; the Malice and Inveteracy of his Father, and was altogether ruled by Priests and Jesuits; we had an Instance of his Clemency in the *West*, whilst himself was Duke of *York*; it was more than suspected that he had the chief Hand in the burning of the City of *London*, and it is well if his Brother had not too: During his short Reign, there were but few Taxes; but Mass-Houses were publickly erected, and Seminaries for Priests, Nunneries, &c. and an Army of *Irish* Papists raised to serve his Turn; but having endeavoured to sham the Kingdom with a pretended Prince of *Wales*, and disoblged the Nation by *Quo Warranto's*, against the Charters of most Corporations in *England*, wherein *London* could not escape his Hands, the Prince of *Orange* coming over with an Army, upon an Invitation of the Heads of the Nation; rather than submit Matters to the Determination of the Parliament, which was offered by the Prince, he ran away with the Queen and Pretender into *France*; from whence he entered *Ireland* with a *French* Army, and joining with the Papists, began a War there; which lasted many Years, and hath cost *Europe* so much Blood and
Treasure;

Treasure ; and in him, as the last Heir Male of that Family, was finished the Curse of his Grandfather *James the first*.

THIS Pious King entered into a Communication of the Merits of the Jesuits Order ; at the same Time he expressed great Joy at his becoming a Son of the Society, and professed he was as much concerned in all their Interests as in his own. He wished they could furnish him with many Priests, to assist him in the Conversion of the Nation, which he was resolved to bring about or to die a Martyr in endeavouring it ; and that he would rather suffer Death for carrying on that Work, than live ever so long and happy without attempting it. He said, he must make Hasten in it, otherwise if he should die, before he had accomplished it, he would leave them worse than he found them. Also, when one of them knelt down, to kiss his Hand, he took him up and said, *Since thou art a Priest, I ought rather to kneel to you and kiss your Hand.* Thus it appears that the Royal House of *Stuart*, from the Accession of the first King *James* to the Throne of *England*, to the Abdication of the Second, did endeavour to subvert the Constitution, and subject this Kingdom to arbitrary Power, Ecclesiastical and Civil. That in the Prosecution of their Design they met with vigorous Opposition from the most virtuous and generous of the *English* Nation, who asserted their Liberty upon all Occasions according as the Necessity the Case required ; and preserved it when in the utmost Peril of being lost, by their Courage and Constancy.

King James,
a Son of the
Jesuits.

AND now, Reader, I must leave thee to judge which of all these Kings deserves that honourable Remembrance *Of blessed Memory*: And I heartily pray, that his present Majesty, from whom we conceive, upon the justest Grounds, the most exalted Hopes of our future Happiness, having hitherto so governed this Country, that he is become the Darling of his Subjects, over whom God in his Goodness has placed him for a Blessing, may so rule, that he may be the Delight and Happiness of his Subjects, and the Terror of his Enemies; and when at length Heaven shall think fit to translate him to a celestial Crown of Glory, He may be a standing Pattern to all succeeding Princes (for Imitation) and deserve that glorious Character *Of Blessed Memory*.



F I N I S.